



# Safety Sense



FY 2014, 11th Edition  
August 2014

## August is National Immunization Awareness Month



Safety awareness goes beyond looking for target hazards in the work place that can cause an accident or an injury. Safety must follow you home for you to be effective in both locations and all points in between. One action that you can take to help ensure your health and wellness is immunizations. Immunization helps prevent dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases. To stay protected against serious illnesses like the flu, measles, and tuberculosis, adults need to get their shots – just like kids do.

National Immunization Awareness Month is a great time to promote vaccines and remind family, friends, and coworkers to stay up to date on their shots.

How can National Immunization Awareness Month make a difference?

We can all use this month to raise awareness about vaccines and share strategies to increase immunization rates within our community.

Here are just a few ideas:

- Talk to friends and family members about how vaccines aren't just for kids. People of all ages can get shots to protect them from serious diseases.
- Encourage people in your community to get the flu shot every year.
- Invite a doctor or nurse to speak to parents about why it's important for all kids to get vaccinated.

How can I help spread the word?

- Add information about immunizations to your safety briefings.
- Share information about National Immunization Awareness Month through social media.
- Share this information at family events for the National Guard.
- If you need an immunization or have questions, contact your health care provider, local clinic or pharmacy.

The CDC (Center for Disease Control) recommends that anyone over 60 or who has risk factors, receive the immunization against Shingles. Also people under 5 and over 65 receive immunization against pneumonia.

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## AVOIDING THE INTERSECTION COLLISION

Did you know that nearly 100% of vehicle collisions are associated with some form of operator error? That's right, drivers cause collisions. And that means all of those collisions are preventable. One type of devastating collision that is completely avoidable is the intersection collision. If all persons: all operators would stay on task, obey the laws and remain courteous, insurance claims from collisions would virtually stop. But collisions in intersections kill people, seriously injure others and can be extremely costly. The leading causes are speed, inattention/ distraction, failing to yield and running red or yellow lights.

Alcohol related crashes are actually on the decline which is a significant victory for our culture. But distracted driving caused injuries and fatalities are increasing. Intersections account for nearly half of the fatalities in America and most of the injury collisions.

One big factor in the intersection collision is not following the traffic control device. At an intersection, we all know that red means stop and green means proceed but what is the meaning of the yellow light? It certainly is not a signal to speed up. Unfortunately, as a society, we feel our own personal schedule and needs trumps

that of the community and therefore is an authorization to speed, and when the light turns yellow, go faster.

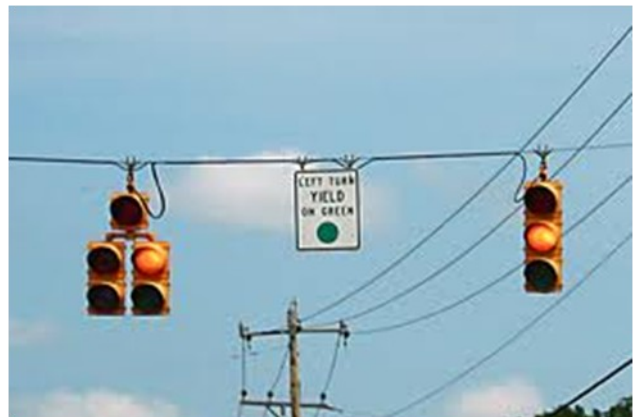
Running for the yellow light causes collisions, road rage incidents and a host of other issues. While the yellow light is there to "caution" you that the light will change, soon, it is not there to challenge you. Remember, running a yellow light I South Dakota is not illegal, provided you are beyond the crosswalk or limit line before the light changes to red. However, if you are involved in an collision you, your passenger or the occupants of the other vehicle could be killed or seriously injured.

Also, you could be liable for the collision

When traveling at the posted speed and the light turns yellow, you must evaluate if you can stop safely before the intersection. Many times there is not enough time or warning to affect that stop, which is why it is yellow and not red. However, you should stop if there is ample time and distance.

You may have to also evaluate the distance between your car and the car in front of you, as well as the car behind. Appropriate follow distances are critical as well as ensuring your entire vehicle is in safe condition.

Driving is one of the biggest responsibilities we carry. Your actions behind the wheel have cause and effect on everyone on the road. Without even trying, you change a person's life, forever. Stay alert, stay courteous and don't rush. Simple concepts that will help you avoid a collision.



*The yellow light at an intersection signals "use caution". If when the light does turn yellow, we all use just a little caution, collisions in an intersection could be dramatically reduced, and potentially save lives.*

## SCHOOL STARTS SOON, TIME TO WATCH FOR KIDS

Before the end of August, school will be back in session. That means parents must start school shopping for clothes and supplies and it is also time to start looking for kids walking, riding, skate boarding or otherwise traveling to and from school. It also means many more young drivers on the road heading to high school and even college.

If you are the parent of a child heading back to school, reiterate the rules of traveling: use crosswalks or cross at an intersection, look both ways, don't talk to strangers, use the most direct route and call if your going to be late. If your kid is driving, you have to be that broken record of safety advise. Other lives depend on it.

Finally, you need to take more time when traveling to and from work. Watch when the big yellow school bus stops for the kids exiting and crossing in front of you. Watch for kids walking to and from school. Take your time to save a life.

# WARNING

KIDS ARE NOT HOOD  
ORNAMENTS



# STAY ALERT

YOU NEVER KNOW  
WHAT YOU MIGHT  
RUN IN TO